

# FLYING SAUCER

WINTER 89

NO. 108



UNITED AERIAL PHENOMENA AGENCY

# DIGEST

# FROM THE EDITOR

## PHENOMENA, NOTES AND COMMENTARY:

You are now holding in your hands the new FSD. As you will notice, it is four pages longer than previous issues. The increase in size is to offset the increase in price that we had to implement. The subscription rate increase will allow us to cover the increased cost of postage, printing, etc. and also allow us to increase the contents of FSD rather than make any profit. FSD has never shown a profit so why start now? We would rather make a bigger and better publication for you, our subscribers and friends. We hope you like the "new" FSD.

## ABOUT NEXT ISSUE:

The cover of our next issue (upper right illustration) will also be under the new size and price. Beginning with this issue FSD will always be at least 14 pages long with more information, illustrations, and pictures at the still low price of only \$7.00 for four issues or \$13.00 for eight issues. If you are currently a subscriber we hope you will renew and remain with us. If you are a new reader we hope you like our efforts and will subscribe to follow our exploration of the UFO mystery.

## OUR SISTER PUBLICATION:

WEIRDODOLOGY (middle illustration) is our bi-monthly Fortean publication which covers many different mysterious subjects. Rick R. Hilberg has been doing an outstanding job as Editor in finding weird and strange phenomena to discuss. Subscription rates are only \$5.00 for six issues. Send check or money order to WEIRDODOLOGY, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Oh. 44132.

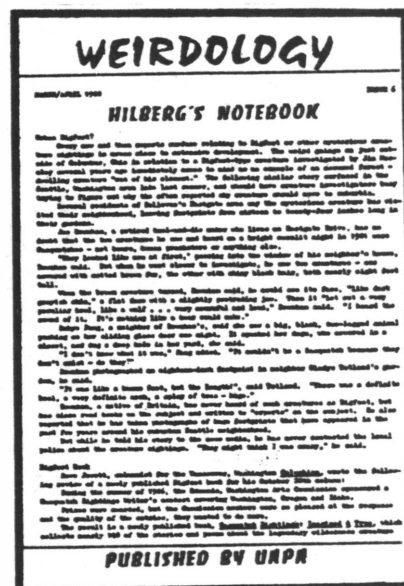
## UAPA'S UFO CATALOG NUMBER 2:

We are pleased to announce that our new catalog is now available. This 10 page catalog, full of illustrations, lists all the material we have for sale at rock bottom prices. The catalog contains books, maps, back issues, rare items, etc. that we have published or collected over the years. At \$1.00 each, the catalog is a must and also a bargain full of bargains. To get your fully illustrated catalog simply send \$1.00 to UAPA, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio, 44132.

## A SOMEWHAT CONTINUING PHENOMENON:

Since March of this year your Editor has been involved in a very strange and mysterious phenomenon. It all began when I received a letter from the WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA people stating that I had been recommended for inclusion in their 1989 edition. After much correspondence and filling out biographical forms etc. I received official notification that I had been selected to appear in the 22nd Edition of WHO'S WHO IN THE MIDWEST. The phenomenon, of course, is how do I rate such an honor? I don't think I'll ever figure it out.

In any case, my biographical sketch is as follows.



It is how it will appear in the publication.

EASLEY, ROBERT SHELDON, production officer worker; b. Defiance, Ohio, May 19, 1950; s. Warren Harding and Jeanne Ruth (Sergeant) E. Grad. high sch., Defiance, Ohio. Minuteman Defiance (Ohio) Fire Dept., 1968-69, 73-76; damage control USN, Vietnam, 1969-73; factory various orgns., Cleve., 1976-81; paramedic Nat. Ambulance, Cleve., 1981-84; prodn. office Cleve Metal Products, 1984--. Author: Flying Saucer Mystery, 1968, World Of UFOlogy, 1982; editor Flying Saucer Digest Magazine, 1978--, Best Of UFO Journal, 1982, Flying Saucer Digest Revisited, 1983, Saucer Trek, 1978, UFOmation II, 1981, UFOs - An Enigma From Space, 1981, UFOs: 1947-1987, 1988; co-author: The Men In Black, 1968, Saucer Album 2, 1969. Named UFOlogist of the Year Nat. UFO Conf., 1977. Mem. Nat. Space Society, Air & Space Smithsonian, The Planetary Society., Vietnam Vets. Am. (pres. Cleve. chpt. 1989--), VFW, Cleve. Police Patrolman's Assn. Home: 8313 Goodman Ave. Cleveland Oh 44105. Office: PO Box 347032 Cleveland Oh 44134.

#### CHANGES AT FSD, AND A SWAN SONG OF SORTS:

Beginning with the next issue of FLYING SAUCER DIGEST, Allan J. Manak will take over as Editor of this publication while continuing to act as Chairman of the UAPA. Rick R. Hilberg will continue to be the Assistant Editor but will assume a much greater role in assisting Allan. All in all it should make for a much better publication.

I will no longer act as Editor due to continuing pressing commitments to various Veterans organizations in the Greater Cleveland area, and the fact that most likely I will be shortly moving into a "ready-made" family situation. In any case, I can no longer remain as Editor of the Flying Saucer Digest.

I will remain as a "consultant" to FSD, and may contribute an article or two from time to time, but for all intents and purposes, I will no longer be a viable member of the UFO community. After 27 years of researching UFOs, I do not believe we will ever solve the mystery. However, life must go on. It has been fun. (From The Editor By Robert S. Easley)

## **READERS SAY**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The READERS SAY column will be handled by UAPA Chairman Allan J. Manak. Our policy will be to print portions of letters that are interesting, whether they agree with us or not. It is also our policy to NOT print your address, only your name and city will be printed. If we use any part of your letter we will add one free issue to your subscription. Thanks to all who have written in thus far. We really do enjoy hearing from you. - RSE)

"I am happy to hear of the increased pages for your publication. I'll be looking forward to the material in it. I wish you every day success in your work. I wish you many of God's Blessing on your new endeavor."

Mrs. A. Lepera  
Canfield, Ohio

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The FLYING SAUCER DIGEST is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the United Aerial Phenomena Agency (UAPA). Chairman is Allan J. Manak. Editor is Robert S. Easley. Assistant Editor is Rick R. Hilberg. The UAPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and related subjects. Subscription rates are 4 issues for \$7.00 or 8 issues for \$13.00. All correspondence and manuscripts are welcomed. Address all correspondence to: UAPA, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio, 44134.

AJM: Thank you, Mrs. Lepera, for the nice letter. We here at UAPA are also happy to increase FSD. We have wanted too for quite sometime now.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I recently subscribed to FLYING SAUCER DIGEST Issue 105, and wanted to know how you get so many sightings in your issue."

Mr. P. Franco  
Los Angeles, California

AJM: Well, Mr. Franco, we know we put more sightings in our issues than most. That's because we still believe the people want to know what is being seen and where, as opposed to rumors and slander articles about other UFOlogists and organizations.

\* \* \* \* \*

"In Issue No. 104 you printed an article "A Summer Visitor at Ruby," I thought it was very interesting. Do you have anymore information or follow up on this case?"

B. Armstrong  
Atlanta, Georgia

AJM: As of the printing of this issue, we have not received anymore information on this supposed sighting of an alien. If we do receive anything we will be sure to publish it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"On October 31, 1978, I was stopped at a red-light at the corner of Clague and Lorain roads in North Olmsted, Ohio. The car was facing east at exactly 11:00 p.m. when my passenger brought my attention to something almost directly overhead. I looked where she was pointing and saw a bright sphere of light. I looked down to see if the light was still red and looked up again to see the sphere had been replaced by a small rectangle of light. It was motionless for a few seconds and then streaked a short distance across the sky before disappearing altogether. Indeed, it was almost like a ribbon of light unrolling across the night sky.

"I really have nothing more to add. The passenger mentioned is now my wife and we had another lights-in-the-sky experience the following year. The only similar report to the 10/31/78 I have ever across appeared in Fate Magazine, volume one, number four, Winter 1949. Should you happen to be interested, I'll be glad to send you a photocopy.

"Let me finally say that the Flying Saucer Digest is the finest publication of its kind I have ever come across. However, I must admit, I am subscribing for the purpose of enjoying Pelger's artwork as I am for the top-notch U.F.O. reporting."

Mr. M. Weitendorf  
North Olmsted, Ohio

RSE: Thank you for the kind letter. We do appreciate getting word of old sightings, as well as new ones. Many people enjoy Mr. Pelger's artwork, so we are glad to include it in our publication.

## **ANALYSIS IN ASTRONOMY**

(Editor's Note: The following Associated Press news wire article appeared in the 8 October 1989 edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. I thought it was quite interesting, so decided to reprint it here. - RSE)

An Ohio State University astronomy professor says people who plan parties for Dec. 31, 1989, and think they're ushering in a new decade have another think - and another party - coming.

"The next decade begins Jan. 1, 1991, strictly speaking," William M. Protheroe said. "The big problem . . . is that the calendar was set up before the concept of zero was in place."

When people began marking time with the calendar, they started with the numeral 1, not 0. With that in mind, he said, the first decade ended at the completion of the year 10, not the year 9.

Since a decade is 10 years, the final year of each decade ends in zero. So each decade begins with a year that ends in 1, Protheroe said.

"The decade has to end at the completion of 1990, or else the first decade only had nine years," Protheroe said. "So the year 1990 actually belongs to the current decade."

The same concept applies to determining when the 21st century starts. The year 2000 belongs to the present century. The next century will begin Jan. 1, 2001, Protheroe said.

"If you want to call the '90s any year that contains 9 in the third digit, you can. But if you are talking about the next decade, it begins with 1991," he said.

Protheroe, a faithful reader of Research & Development magazine, said the publication gets a lot of mail on whether midnight belongs to the current day or the following one.

For the record, Protheroe believes midnight belongs to no day.

"Midnight is not an interval of time that can be labeled a.m. or p.m. . . . The next day begins the shortest amount of time you can imagine after midnight."

Therefore, Protheroe said, the next decade will begin the shortest amount of time imaginable after the midnight that separates Dec. 31, 1990, and Jan. 1, 1991.

"If one likes to celebrate, you can celebrate the coming of the new decade two years in a row," Protheroe said.

## **UFO RETROSPECTIVE**

### UFOs Zip Across Southern California Skies - Paper Debunks(1949):

The following early saucer era report comes from an unknown southern California newspaper. It's interesting because it contains obviously false information pertaining to alleged Air Force experiments with "rocket powered" radio-controlled gunnery tow targets, inserted in the body of the news story in a blatant attempt to discredit the testimony of numerous witnesses by explaining away the whole incident. But then that's nothing new, is it?

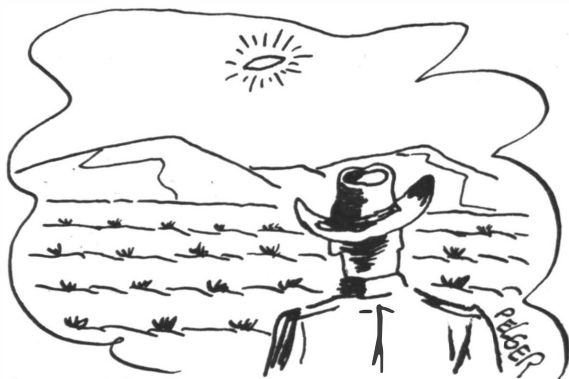
Here's the story exactly as it was run:

Four "flying disks," traveling in a tight, boxlike formation, streaked across El Cajon Valley at 1:15 yesterday afternoon (April 23, 1949) and opened speculation that they may be a new type of aerial target for air gunners from Muroc Airbase (now Edwards Air Force Base - RRH), in the Mojave Desert.

It is known, however, that the Air Force has been experimenting with saucer targets answering the general description of the disks. The aerial targets, designed to replace towed sleevecones, presumably are rocket powered and controlled by radio.

Among twelve persons spotting the objects from a trailer court at 460 Chambers St., El Cajon, were James R. Bennett, former Air Force fighter pilot, and Dale Griswold, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and a flier 17 years.





"I was watching a plane take off from Gillespie Field when I spotted them," Bennett said.

"There were four in a flat formation, coming like a bat out of Hades across the ridge." (The ridge was the east one of El Cajon Valley, about 8 miles from Bennett.)

"They flew south in the valley at about 2000 feet," Bennett said. "They were in a perfect box formation, never varying from the

formation even when they banked. I'd say they were about three miles away from me at the closest point."

Bennett said the objects, considering the distance, must have been 30 feet each in diameter and were of a bright, silvery color. "They flashed and the sun glistened on them like it would on a mirror when they banked," Bennett said. "Then they'd flatten out, become a thin, black line and go like a bullet."

Bennett called his wife, Barbara, when he first saw the disks, and within a few minutes a dozen residents of the court had witnessed the objects.

Griswold, Commander of the California State Guard in the Eastern Section of the County during World War II, admitted he previously had been dubious about "flying disk" stories. But yesterday's performance convinced him.

"I watched them for about three minutes," he said. "They must have been connected in some way, or all controlled by the same radio wave, to stay in perfect formation through such maneuvers."

Mrs. Bennett said the disks at times darted suddenly, as a kite might do, but maintained a fairly even course down the valley except for occasional banks.

Then, she said, they appeared to hang momentarily in the air before leveling and shooting off at high speed. The formation finally disappeared to the south of the valley.

Bennett estimated top speed of the objects at "1,000 miles an hour," but admitted it was only a guess. Both he and Griswold pointed out that the disks, if highly reflective, would be misleading in size when seen from a distance.

Several pilots were in the surrounding area at the time the disks were seen, but Gillespie Field personnel said none of the pilots had reported spotting the objects.

The targets reported being tested by the Air Force at Muroc are circular, semi-flat disks ranging up to three feet or more in diameter, according to reports. They are silvered and reportedly have reached up to 200 miles an hour. It is not known, however, whether radio control has been so perfected as to allow them to fly in close formation.

## FOREMOST SIGHTING THIS ISSUE

UAPA's Chairman Allan J. Manak has selected the following UFO report for FSD's sighting of the quarter. It appeared in the May 26th edition of the Wayne Independent, Honesdale, Pennsylvania, under the byline of staffer Jennifer Shaffer:

Several area residents have come forth with additional information pertaining to the unidentified flying objects over the weekend of May 20th and 21st. Fred Weigelt, a retired game protector, and eight fellow game protectors, were camping Saturday evening, May 20th, in Long Eddy. The members of

the group reportedly saw three lights, in the form of a triangle, high in the sky near Pennsylvania Ridge. The lights were reddish-orange in color and did not blink. Also present were two steady red lights, each a football field apart in distance. No blinking lights or strobe lights - the types found on standard aircraft - could be seen.

The object did not emit any sounds, according to the group, until it started to move slowly away at an angle. It then emitted a low noise, much like the sound of a large electric generator. "It was definately not a combustion engine," said Weigelt.

According to Weigelt, the group saw the object, or at least the lights, at 10:32 p.m. "It was too dark out to discern the complete shape of the object. We couldn't see an outline or get any perception of depth. But, from the positions of the lights, it appeared to be bigger in size than plane or dirigible I've ever seen," he said.

For many years prior to his retirement, Weigelt was the District Game Protector for northern Wayne County. As a trained observer for over 34 years, Weigelt believes he has the experience necessary to be able to distinguish the difference between what often appears to be alien intervention and what is really easily-explanable natural phenomena. But this time, he was amazed at what he and the members of the group saw. "Some of the guys outside the tarp called to the rest of us when they saw the lights," he said. "When we got where we could see them, I didn't know what to think. For years, anytime someone mentioned UFOs I thought they were crazy, but this I can't explain."

## **AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD**

### THE 1989 NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE:

For this year the 26th annual National UFO Conference tried to take on a new image of sorts by calling itself the National UFO and New Age Conference. No doubt convention sponsor Tim Beckley wanted to lure some of the "New Age" folks to this year's gathering in Phoenix that ran from September 15th through the 17th at the Thomas Road Quality Inn. And in that respect he seemed to succeed, as the turnout for all of the scheduled sessions and individual workshops, most of them "New Age" or contactee-oriented, was just about S.R.O.

I must admit that at first I had reservations about the proposed format of this normally strictly mainstream UFO conference, but after attending I must say that the whole thing went off rather well, and that I can honestly say that I (as well as my family) had a splendid time. The "UFO people" and the "New Agers" (and I'll include the UFO contactees in with this group, as both seem to share much in common philosophically) seemed to mix well, and both showed an enthusiasm I haven't seen at any UFO-related conference in many years.

As always, it was great to meet with old friends, as well as make new ones. I especially enjoyed the get acquainted poolside cocktail party Friday evening, where everyone had a chance to chat and mingle on what was a lovely late summer evening. There I had a chance to see such "regulars" as Ed Biebel, Gene Steinberg, Jim Moseley, Antonio Huneus and Curt Sutherly, as well as people I've never had the pleasure to meet before such as Robert Short, Allen Benz, Jim Speiser and British UFOlogist Jenny Randles.

All in all Tim Beckley should be congratulated for putting on a great convention this year, and we understand he will be helping Jim Moseley with the 1990 NUFOC slated to be held in Miami next May. I know I'll be there.

### MORE ON SPACE SHUTTLE FLAP:

As reported in our last column, the alleged space shuttle UFO sighting is still continuing to generate controversy, as the following note from Billy J. Rachels of the UFO Bureau (516 Colton Ave., Thomasville, Georgia, 31792) takes us to task for generally looking at it in a negative way:

"About your story on the last page about 'Did Aliens Bull Shuttle.' I would like to refer you to my September news release, paragraph 3, dated April 16th (sic). A local member attended the UFO conference in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, from which she brought back a copy of that tape (there were five of us who listened to it) with the shuttle telling NASA (they) still had the spacecraft under observance.

"Before this tape was taken seriously and released, many hours were involved checking it out, including the man who made it, and a search was made nation-wide to find someone who heard the broadcast and they (sic) did. Voice experts after studying the entire tape said they were convinced that the voice was that of the (space shuttle) pilot.

"Hey Rick, of course they denied it, but the tape does not lie.

"I do not have all the names right here in front of me, but I can get them if you want them."

I've already told Mr. Rachels that we would love to have some more specifics from him on this case, and that we would like to feature a possible article by him in an up-coming issue of WEIRDOLOGY. Stay tuned . . .

#### MINI-FLAP IN CALIFORNIA?:

The following very interesting chronology of UFO reports from the Anza, California area was published in the July 14th edition of the Anza Valley Outlook under the byline of Debbie Steinberg:

June 28, 1989 - 10:00 P.M.: A teenager in the Bradford Road area was gazing out her bedroom window when she saw six lights speed by one after the other. The last object was a "huge" gold light that seemed to glow red and become engulfed in flames. After the flames subsided the object glowed brightly and lit up a large area in the vicinity of Vail Lake.

June 28, 1989 - 10:00 P.M.: A 32-year-old woman in the Vail Lake area contacted me about a sighting very similar to the previous one. She observed six lighted objects flying towards her in a triangular formation. The last was an enormous glowing light. As it got closer to her she could see it was a craft and described it as "a floating barge that resembled a city." This prodigious object glowed red and appeared to explode in flames as it landed near the lake. As the flames subsided a glow lit up the area for a long period of time. There was a lot of interaction between the craft and small lighted objects which were moving around at high rates of speed. This woman also observed a saucer-shaped craft on Monday night (the 26th - RRH) at about 10:00 p.m. and a much larger disk-shaped object on Tuesday night at approximately 10:00 p.m. in the same area. There are many more important points to this accounting and I may revert back to it in future issues. (So far I have yet to see a follow-up from this source - RRH.)





June 29, 1989 - 9:00 P.M.: A 36-year-old woman in the Bradford Road area observed bright amber-colored lights in what she thought to be the Vail Lake area. The lights were in a triangular formation. One would drop out of sight and another would come up into view. Two sets of military aircraft circled the area and as they approached the lighted objects went dark.

June 29, 1989 - 9:30 P.M.: Three people on Table Mountain watched the same light show. They also observed a large lighted object over Cahuilla Mountain described as a large green light with blue lights circling it.

June 30, 1989 - 2:55 P.M.: The Bautista Road woman in a previously mentioned encounter was driving north on Bahrman Road. She saw an object shaped like a cylinder moving across the sky at a 45 degree angle. There was a couple of cars pulled off to the side of the road and at least one person observed the craft through binoculars. As it made its way along the crest of Thomas Mountain it tilted slightly exposing a black dome on the mid-section. The craft seemed to set down on top of the mountain.



July 3, 1989 - 11:30 P.M.: A group of people in the Bradford Road area were outside hoping to get a glimpse of Saturn, which was supposed to be visible at that time. Two members of the same family were looking straight up when they saw an enormous craft. Its shape was similar to that of a

sergeant's stripes. A pole protruded from the front portion with a spotlight of some sort at the tip. Gold lights blinked in quick succession as the monstrous craft sped toward the Vail Lake area.

July 9, 1989 - 12:05 A.M.: A Terwilliger couple were preparing to retire for the evening when a super brilliant light flashed in their window silhouetting the entire area. The husband looked out and saw a brilliant white light approximately 12 inches in diameter, such as the beam from a strobe light, moving from behind a hill. The wife then looked out and saw the light too. They both watched as the light seemed to rotate to the left lasting approximately 15 to 20 seconds before changing to a brilliant red light which appeared a bit larger. This red light was still revolving but seemed slower, about 60 seconds, before again changing to white, lasting about 45 seconds and again changing to the brilliant red; lasting approximately 60 seconds before it just vanished. The area where this was seen is a rock covered hill, quite unlikely for any vehicle to travel across. Being curious in nature, the husband and another family member ventured out to see if anything could be seen. When reaching the area just below where the light were seen, their car engine simply died. It took two tries to restart the car, which is in otherwise perfect working condition. Upon returning home the family continued to watch the area and the husband and another member saw a small soft light to the right of the original lights and one below. They too just disappeared. For whatever it's worth, they turned on the TV which normally doesn't have very good reception. However, this night the reception appeared as if they had cable TV. The wife indicated, "I am now a UFO believer." The husband has seen sightings previously; one in the 50's in the Compton area, another a year ago (July 7th) in this same area and again on June 19th of this year.

It's obvious that we are experiencing an increased wave of activity in

our area. A few of the sightings have been represented here and there are, no doubt, countless others that remain untold. (Note that portions of this account were edited to keep a chronological sequence. - RRH)

GEORGE FAWCETT INVESTIGATING NORTH CAROLINA UFO:

Long-time UFO researcher George Fawcett of Lincolnton, North Carolina is investigating the following UFO case that was written up in the September 8th edition of the Gastonia Observer under the byline of Ann Doss Helms:

If you caught a glimpse of a reddish-brown triangle hovering near McGuire Nuclear Station on August 18th, George Fawcett wants to hear from you.

Fawcett, a Lincolnton man who's been collecting UFO reports for 45 years, said Thursday he's intrigued by the daylight sighting by Paul Moore of Huntersville, a disabled security guard.

"They've had a plague of UFOs around McGuire over the years," Fawcett said.

Moore, 46, said he saw the airplane-sized triangle about 2:30 P.M. August 18th, when he stepped onto his back porch to feed his dog. A former security guard at McGuire, Moore lives about a half-mile from the plant's substation.

He spotted the reddish-brown, unmarked object in the air between a couple of trees, he said.

"When I first saw it, it kind of surprised me real good," he said.

The object dived to about 500 feet from the ground and headed toward the substation, Moore said.

"It just kind of popped in my mind that I was seeing something," Moore recalled. "So I closed my eyes and opened them back up and it was gone."

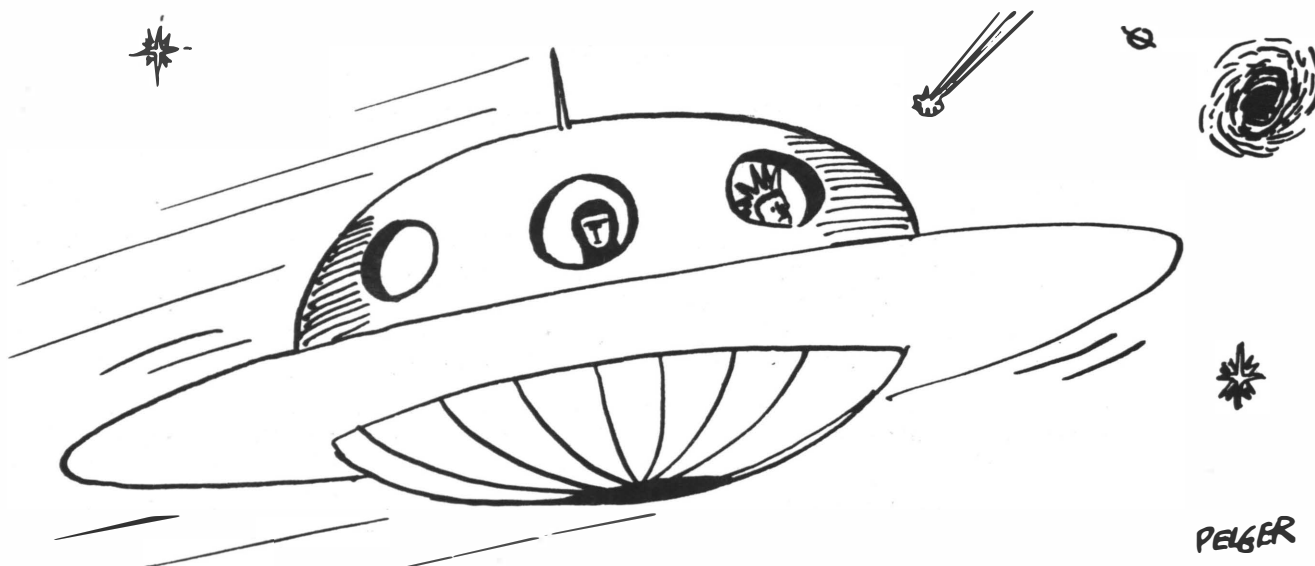
Moore has had a longtime interest in UFOs, but has never seen one before, he said.

After pondering the matter for about a week, he decided what he'd seen was real and reported it to Fawcett, President of the N. C. branch of the Mutual UFO Network, an international UFO research group.

Fawcett issued a public appeal for reports from other witnesses because of the timing and location, he said.

"Daytime reports are a lot more valid than night because you're not as likely to confuse it with lights in the sky," he said.

He said Moore's account is similar to reported sightings in Pennsylvania recently, and reports of UFOs around nuclear stations are common.



"Whether it came from Russia or Mars, it could be a serious problem," Fawcett said. "It would be a threat to national security and human survival."

Fawcett is asking anyone else who saw the object to call him at (704) 735-5725, 4 PM to midnight. (AROUND AND ABOUT written by Rick R. Hilberg).

## GUEST ARTICLE

Editor's Note: The following article was published in the November/December 1988 issue of the New Age publication "Body, Mind & Spirit." It was written by a Paul Zuromski. Allan J. Manak, UAPA's Chairman, felt it was interesting enough to be reprinted here. The title of the article is "Only Aliens Can Keep Secrets":

I recently heard about the "discovery" of certain classified U.S. Government documents that supposedly prove there were at least two UFO crashes in the Southwestern United States in the late 1940's. According to the documents, one of the crashes near Roswell, New Mexico, yielded a wrecked alien spacecraft and the badly damaged bodies of four pilots determined not to be human.

These documents reveal that the U.S. military carted the spacecraft and the alien bodies to a U.S. Government installation for study. They also indicate that Presidents Truman and Eisenhower were aware of the situation.

After many years of speculation that the U.S. Government has actual UFO materials, this case is said to be the first hard evidence to support the theory.

The debunkers say these documents are faked. Many of the people who study UFOs say they're real, and even if these documents are a deception, the U.S. Government is still responsible for a massive, complete, 40 year cover-up of UFO activity which, they say, continues to occur.

I say, forget the evidence. You only need to understand one thing to prove whether or not the U.S. Government can keep UFOs a secret for 40 years. *PEOPLE CANNOT KEEP SECRETS (Italics added).*

Especially news of UFO wreckage and alien bodies being stored at a U.S. Government installation. It's outrageous!

Even U.S. Military personnel who are sworn to secrecy regularly sell sensitive defense information to the Soviets. All it takes is for some Russian operative to wave a few dollars in front of a dissatisfied or frustrated mid-level military person dealing with secret, classified data. The result is that another piece of our technology finds its way into Soviet military hardware that one day may get thrown back at us.

That's selling out our country . . . very serious stuff.

How can we ever expect every one of the people involved with an incredible UFO incident to stay quiet? At some point someone is going to grab one of the alien helmets and run to the nearest tabloid. Any mass market weekly will pay him dearly for the information and make him a national star. Unlike passing military secrets to another country, a UFO story is perceived as something the American public should know about and the person who gives it to us will become a hero.



"Darn Women Drivers"

Like the rest of us, U.S. Government employees and the many civilian scientists who would study UFO evidence are very human. It's ludicrous to think that everyone involved with a secret stash of UFO parts would keep the story under wraps for 40 years. Someone would have told the world by now in order to bask in the fame and fortune and forego their relatively meager government paycheck.

So does this mean that UFOs don't exist?

Not really.

It just means that instead of worrying about whether the U.S. Government is hiding UFOs, we would be better off spending the time and energy objectively examining credible UFO sightings and experiences.

Since the U.S. Air Force quit the UFO business in 1969 and veteran UFO researcher J. Allen Hynek died, there has been no scientifically credible organization collecting and examining UFO data. All we see is sensationalized rehashings of old UFO photos and stories and a few more reliable voices like Whitley Streiber's describing the elusive, multi-dimensional nature of UFOs and their occupants.

A few UFO reports continue to defy explanation, like the 1986 sighting by a Japan Airline's jet crew of a huge UFO while flying over Alaska. Scientists are baffled by an incident like this and remain silent. This leaves no one to decipher and examine the evidence except a curious public.

Instead of trying to get the U.S. Government to admit it covered-up UFO data that it probably doesn't have, we could better spend our time and energy writing our congressional representatives to convince the U.S. Government to conduct serious and objective research into UFOs and other paranormal claims and phenomena.

The winners in this effort will be those same folks who cannot keep a secret - us.

-Paul Zuromski

## **UFO BITS AND PIECES**

(Editor's Note: The following article is the second in a five-part series written by Clark Cox for the Richmond County Daily Journal of Rockingham, North Carolina. Printed in the 22 August 1989 edition, it is reprinted here because of the many sightings mentioned. - RSE).

It is commonly believed that sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs, began about 1947, with the wave of "flying saucer" reports in the United States.

But strange objects in the sky have been recorded throughout history. Some UFO buffs who believe that UFO's are alien spacecraft even theorize that the "wheel within a wheel" in the Old Testament was such a craft, or that the Red Sea was parted by the close passage of a spacecraft.

Joe M. McLaurin of Rockingham, compiler of the "Richmond County Historical Collection," said his files do not contain UFO reports - "at least, not filed by that category."

But McLaurin gave us what is perhaps the earliest report of a UFO sighting the Sandhills area:

"I well remember," he said, "that when I was a boy, my grandfather often told me how, when he was about five years old, he was walking with his grandfather late one night in Marlboro County, S.C., and they saw a light in the sky stop and then circle the area."

McLaurin's grandfather, Daniel Lee McLaurin, was born in 1874.

George D. Fawcett of Lincolnton has personally investigated over 1,200 UFO reports for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) - mostly in North Carolina, which he said ranks fourth among the 50 states in the number of its UFO reports, over 800 in the last 50 years.

Fawcett says there have been three major "waves" of UFO reports in North Carolina - in 1973, 1975 and 1978.

Sightings were reported in the Richmond County area in all three of those years, Fawcett says - particularly during a six-day period in early April 1975, when UFO activity was so great in Lumberton and "throughout the immediate area" of the Sandhills that another UFO organization, the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) published a book about the "Lumberton sightings." "There were 23 sightings in all during the wave," Fawcett said. "Nine had 'spotlights,' three made flat turns, three were reported to have made noises, two made signals in response to car headlights, 10 were seen to hover, and 11 were spotted at treetop level or below."

One of those 1975 sightings was made by a Hamlet police officer, Fawcett said: "It came down and hovered right beside his police cruiser on the highway."

But neither in 1973, in 1975, or in 1978, were any of the area sightings reported to The Daily Journal - another indication that persons who see UFO's are extremely reluctant to report the experience. The only mention by local newspapers of the Lumberton area sightings was in a column by Harvey Burgess in The Hamlet News.

Some of the local sightings were reported directly to MUFON and other investigatory agencies, which keep the names of their respondents confidential unless permitted to give the names to news organizations. Others were reported to metropolitan newspapers and radio stations. Major news agencies such as the Associated Press failed to pick up most of these stories.

Henry H. Morton of Wadesboro, another MUFON investigator of long standing, said he received "21 reports of UFO sightings in Anson County last January alone - but I haven't received any reports from Richmond County in I don't know how long. I think it's just that I don't have that many contacts in Richmond County."

The only detailed mention ever made of any UFO in local newspapers concerned the first sighting of the "flying saucer" era: on December 28, 1949, over Hamlet.

From The Richmond County Journal, Thursday, Dec. 29, 1949:

"Everyone agrees it wasn't a flying saucer but no one agrees on what it was - those who saw the mysterious aircraft flying over Richmond County yesterday have no idea what the object could be.

"The object, resembling a balloon, was first reported over Hamlet about 4:45 p.m. and was said to appear as being 30 or 40 feet in diameter.

"Whatever the object, everyone agreed that it was flying crazily as it passed over Hamlet and headed West. Witnesses stated that the craft first flew down, then levelled off and turned over.

"Phillip Gibbons took off in a light airplane to give chase and reported that when he neared the object it quickly turned into (the) sun and that he last saw it about 12 miles Southwest of Hamlet.

"Some expressed the opinion that the object was a weather balloon, used by stations to determine weather conditions. Mr. Gibbons stated that it did not appear as such to him. Weather stations partially discredited the theory also.

"Mr. Gibbons, an Air Force veteran, said the object was not disk or saucer shaped and added that the fact it did not change direction for a period of some time tended to prove it was not a balloon."

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